From: Debian User
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:38pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

Having read the proposed final judgement for USA versus Microsoft,
I respectfully submit that the remedies it proposes are not sufficient
to stop Microsoft's unlawful anti-competetive practices.

The partial opening of Microsoft's APIs, for example, might make it
easier for some developers to write some software for Windows (which can
only serve to increase Microsoft's operating system market share), but
it includes specific restrictions that would make it difficult or
impossible for non-commercial and Open Source developers to have access to
these APIs. Nor does it address a core issue: the intentional obscurity
of Microsoft's constantly changing file formats, which makes it extremely
difficult to write applications that operate on Microsoft-generated files,
such as Microsoft Word documents.

Additionally, the settlement does not address Microsoft's illegal
contractual tying and bundling of middleware to the operating system,
even though the Court of Appeals specifically rejected Microsoft's
petition for a rehearing on this issue.

Indeed, the settlement provides no penalty whatsoever for Microsoft's
past unlawful behavior.

During the course of the anti-trust trials, Microsoft, far from being
repentant, has sought to expand its monopoly positions even further
with its .NET, Passport, and Windows XP Activation schemes. It seems
clear that Microsoft considers the Department of Justice and the U.S.
Government to be paper tigers, and the acceptance of this proposed
settlement by the Court would only serve to prove that to them.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed settlement and to insist on
stronger and more effective remedies.

Respectfully,

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